

# IBM Mid-Penninsular PC Club

Jan 17, 2017

# Meeting Agenda

- Discussion of 2017 IBM PC Club Interest and Plans - George Kornbluth
- Election of IBM PC Club Officers for 2017 - George Kornbluth
- Discussion of Personal Assistants (Smart Speakers) – Peter Hirsch and George Kornbluth

# Discussion of 2017 IBM PC Club Interest and Plans

- Frequency of PC Club Meetings
- Location of Club Meetings
- Topics of Interest
- Dues for 2017

# Election of IBM PC Club Officers for 2017

- 2016 Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>George Kornbluth</b>	<b>408-832-4433</b>
<b>Vice President/Secretary</b>	<b>Jan Laskowski</b>	<b>650-967-0889</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>George Kornbluth</b>	<b>408-832-4433</b>
<b>Program Chair</b>	<b>Peter Hirsch</b>	<b>408-802-5325</b>
<b>Newsletter/Webmaster</b>	<b>Bernhard Krevet</b>	<b>707-254-9424</b>

# Personal Assistant Devices

Smart Speakers/Virtual Assistant

# Agenda

- Amazon Echo
- Google Home

# Amazon Echo

## Peter Hirsch

- Echo

- Cost \$180
- Voice Activated Home Speaker
- Connects to the Internet via WiFi
- “Alexa” is the voice recognition assistant
- Can be used for searches, music, radio
- Can integrate with some apps
- Setup done through an App on your Phone or Pad



- Echo Dot (2)

- Cost \$50
- Has Internal speakers
- Can connect to existing audio setup
  - Cable or Bluetooth



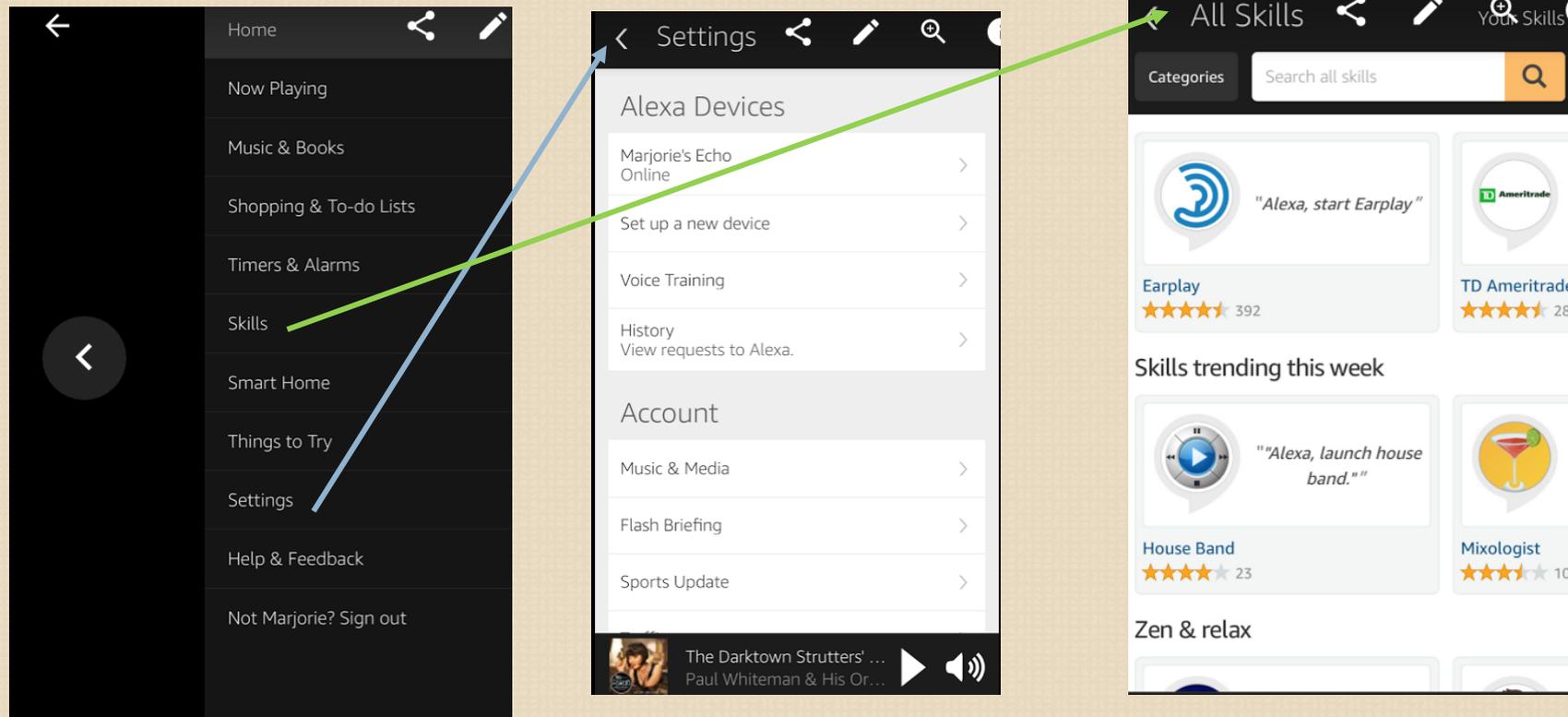
# Amazon Echo Popularity



- Nov 2016, Amazon's Echo device has reached a sales milestone, with a new report from Consumer Intelligence Research Partners estimating that the retail giant has sold 5.1 million of the smart speakers in the U.S. since it debuted two years ago.
- The devices are very popular. According to Amazon, the Echo and the smaller Echo Dot sold in record numbers this holiday season, nine times over the sales in 2015.
- Though Amazon doesn't give exact information on how many Echos it has sold, it did say "millions of new customers will be introduced to Alexa" as a result of sales this (2016) holiday

# Echo Setup

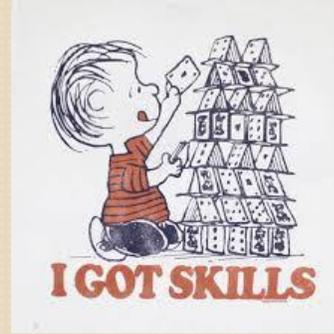
- Amazon Alexa App (Apple iPad, iPhone or Google Android devices)



# Echo Alexa Commands

- You can ask Alexa to do all sorts of things
- For starters, she can stream music from Amazon Prime Music, Pandora, or Spotify
- She can play podcasts from iHeartRadio or TuneIn
- She can set kitchen timers
- She can look up facts
- She can wake you up in the morning
- She can tell your kids painfully bad jokes
- She can read off the day's headlines from whatever news sources you like All you have to do is ask
- **Complete List of Alexa Commands**
  - <https://www.cnet.com/how-to/the-complete-list-of-alexa-commands/>

# Echo Alexa Skills



- On top of that, Alexa keeps getting smarter thanks to an increasingly robust market of third-party voice apps called "skills."
- There are over 3,000 of them at this point, and each one teaches Alexa a new trick.
- The **Uber and Lyft skills** let you tell Alexa to call you a ride.
- The **Capital One skill** lets you tell Alexa to make a credit card payment.
- The **Domino's skill** lets you tell Alexa to order a pizza.
- A skill called **The Wayne Investigation** lets you talk your way through an interactive mystery set in Gotham City. You can browse through them all in the Alexa app on your phone, then pick which ones you want to enable
- You can also just ask Alexa to turn one on by saying something like, "Alexa, enable the Jeopardy skill." And, as of now, none of them cost anything

# Echo Skills

- Philips Hue connected LEDs
- LIFX connected LEDs
- Ledvance Lightify connected LEDs
- Lutron connected lighting setups
- Haiku smart lights and ceiling fans
- Belkin WeMo Switches
- August Smart Lock
- Scout Home Security system
- Ecobee3 Smart Thermostat
- Nest Learning Thermostat
- SmartThings connected home platform
- Wink connected home platform
- Insteon connected home platform
- GE smart appliances
- Garageio garage door opener
- Logitech Harmony Hub entertainment controller
- Control4 smart home setups
- Nexia smart home setups
- Crestron smart home setups
- **List is growing**
  - More skills announced at CES 2017

# Funny Alexa Story

- Megan Neitzel couldn't figure out why an expensive dollhouse and four pounds of sugar cookies were delivered to her Dallas home. She didn't order either. Neither had her husband
- Then she talked to her 6-year-old daughter, Brooke
- "The next morning, I asked my daughter and she said, 'I was talking to Alexa about a dollhouse and cookies,' "
- Brooke asked Alexa to "order me a dollhouse and cookies," and that's just what Alexa did. A KidKraft Sparkle Mansion dollhouse, which costs about \$170, and a tin of Royal Dansk sugar cookies soon arrived
- So Neitzel made some changes. Now if anyone in the family tries to order something through Alexa, a four-digit code is required for purchases. She and her husband also have established rules on how their kids should interact with Alexa.

# Who Done It?

- Police in Bentonville, Ark., asked Amazon for audio and other records from an Echo digital assistant in the home of James Andrew Bates after Victor Collins was found dead in Bates' hot tub last year
- Amazon refused both times. In a statement to USA TODAY, Amazon said it will not release customer information without a valid and binding legal demand properly served on it. Amazon objects to overly broad or inappropriate demands as a matter of course, the company said
- It's important to note that "always listening" doesn't mean "always recording." The Echo is actually always listening only for its "wake word," which by default is the name of its voice recognition program Alexa

# Other Things to Watch for - CES 2017

- Lenovo Smart Assistant
  - Based on Amazon Echo
  - Better speakers and design
  - Available late 2017
- LG Smart Refrigerator
  - Alexa built into refrigerator
- Other devices
  - <https://www.cnet.com/news/whats-alex-up-to-at-ces-heres-a-running-list/>



# Comparison Amazon Echo vs Google Home

- **Sound**

- Digital Trends' senior editor thinks the Amazon Echo outperforms the Google Home on sound, writing in our review,
  - “While Amazon’s full-size Echo has a very large sound with full bass that doesn’t go overboard
  - Google’s Home over-juices the bass, and ends up sounding like it’s trying too hard.”
- With Google Home, you can utilize other speakers via Wi-Fi and Google “Cast,” making this one of the biggest differences between the two smart devices.

- **Connectivity**

- Google Home has thus far partnered with Nest, Samsung SmartThings, IFTTT, and Philips.
- Here, Home has the edge, because you can get away with being a little less rigorous about how exactly you execute commands, and it seamlessly switches the color of Hue bulbs.
- Amazon Echo’s built-in AI assistant, Alexa, on the other hand, currently requires an IFTTT trigger to do so.
- Google Home also works with Sony and LG televisions to support
- Google Echo is quickly adding many new vendors see [CES2017](#)

# Comparison Amazon Echo vs Google Home

- Google Home has branded this new personal assistant as being “conversational.” Not only can it respond to inquiries and provide the appropriate response, but it can retain that information and respond to follow-up questions.
- **Profiles**
- Amazon Echo lets you set up different household profiles so you can switch between users — which is very useful if you and your loved ones have different tastes in music

## **Skills**

- For now, Amazon’s Echo has far more skills. And while many, like bacon facts or pickup lines, aren’t super useful, its integration with services such as Kayak, Lyft, and Uber are great. Google Home has some catching up to do here.

# Comparison Amazon Echo vs Google Home

- **Price**

- The Amazon Echo is currently on sale and retails for \$179, Echo Dot retails for \$50
- Google Home wanted to undercut its competitor, and as such, the device retails for \$129. Google's price point also includes six months of YouTube Red, the platform's paid subscription service.

Read more: <http://www.digitaltrends.com/home/amazon-echo-vs-google-home/#ixzz4VshGLZmC>

- [CNET Review](#)